

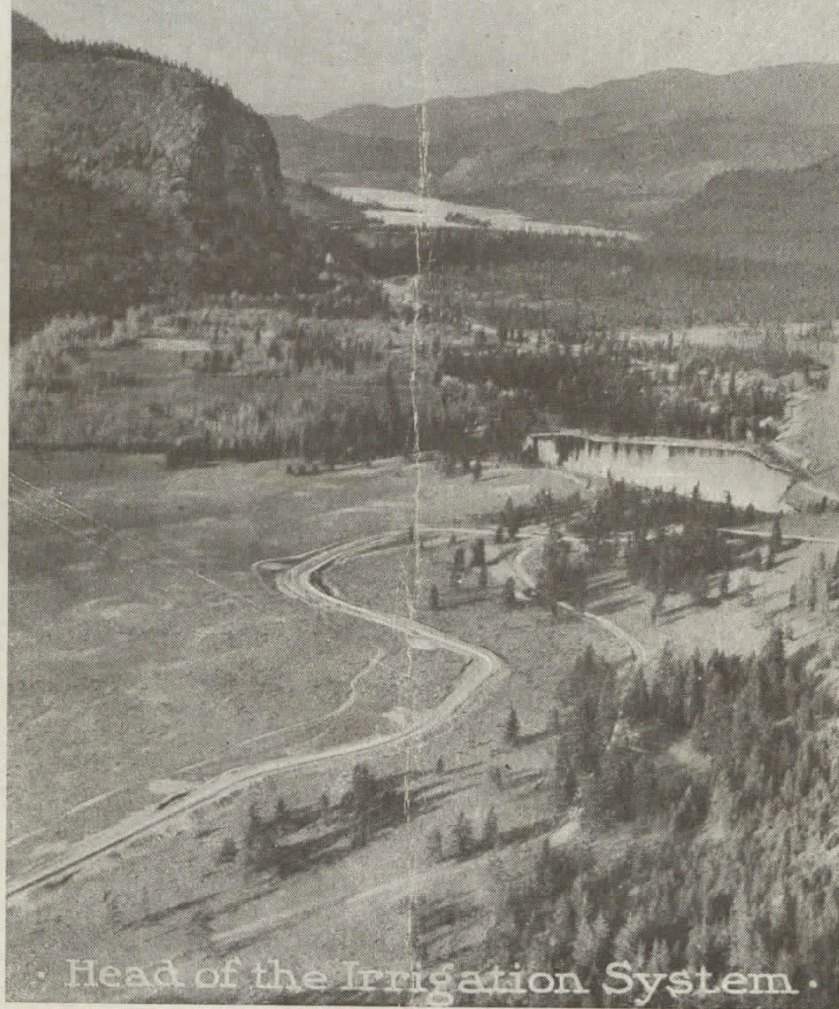
Oliver & District Heritage Society

Box 847



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# SOUTHERN OKANAGAN IRRIGATION PROJECT



Head of the Irrigation System

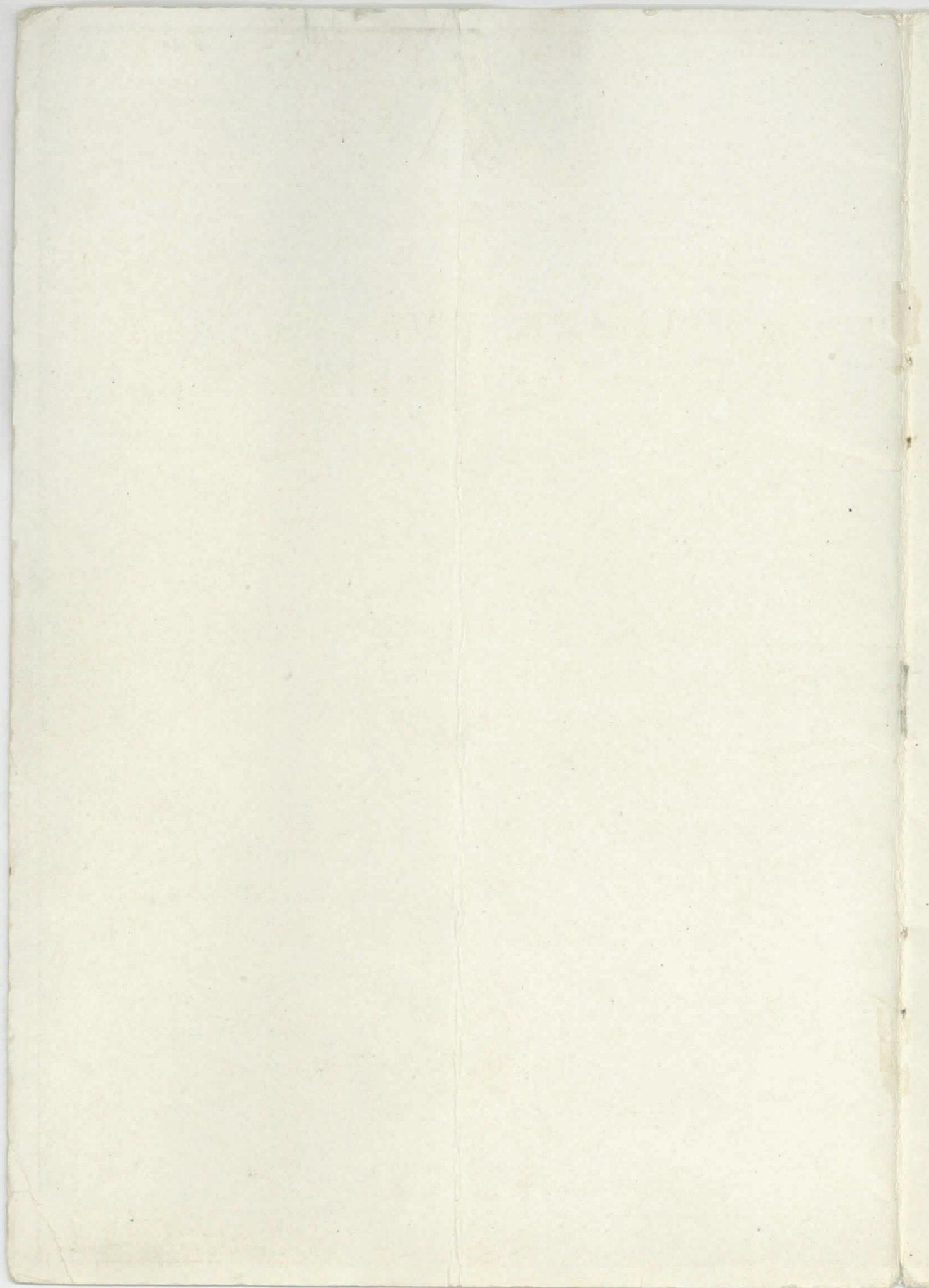
GOVERNMENT OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Department of Lands  
*Hon. T.D. Pattullo, (Minister of Lands)*

CITY OF VERNON

BOARD OF LANDS & ARCHIVES

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# SOUTHERN OKANAGAN IRRIGATION PROJECT



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GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Department of Lands*

HON. T. D. PATTULLO, Minister of Lands

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## Southern Okanagan Irrigation Project of the British Columbia Government

**T**HE Government of British Columbia is developing for settlement a tract of 22,000 acres, known as the Southern Okanagan Irrigation Project, in the Southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

Thirteen thousand acres of this tract are irrigable and are from time to time being offered for sale at reasonable prices and favourable terms in blocks of from 10 to 20 acres each.

The Okanagan Valley is the principal fruit-growing section of Western Canada and the Project covers the best portion of the southern part of it. An early growing season provides a great advantage when competitive markets and the comparatively high prices for early products are considered.

The Project area extends from a point about 22 miles south of Penticton, on the main line of the Kettle Valley Railway, to the International Boundary, 4 miles north of Oroville, in the State of Washington. The development of the Project is well under way; there being about 100 orchard lots now established, with 1,300 acres under cultivation and approximately 100,000 fruit-trees set out.

### Irrigation.

A modern irrigation system, ensuring an ample supply of water, has been installed by the Government. This will be operated by the Government until the

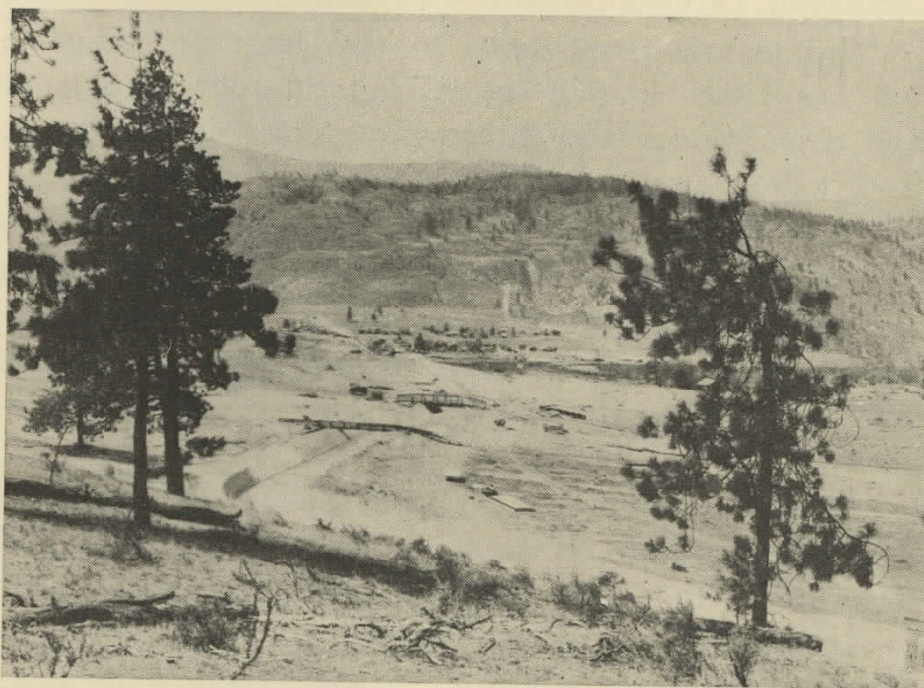
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## SOUTHERN OKANAGAN

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development of the settlement has progressed to the point where the management may be taken over by the water-users.

The water for irrigation is obtained from the Okanagan River, which drains Okanagan, Dog, and Vaseaux



THE MAIN CANAL

Lakes. It is conveyed from the river in a modern concrete-lined main ditch with a width slightly in excess of 18 feet at the top and a depth of over 5 feet. The ditch carries a flow of 170 cubic feet per second of water at a net depth of 4.2 feet. Where conditions require it,

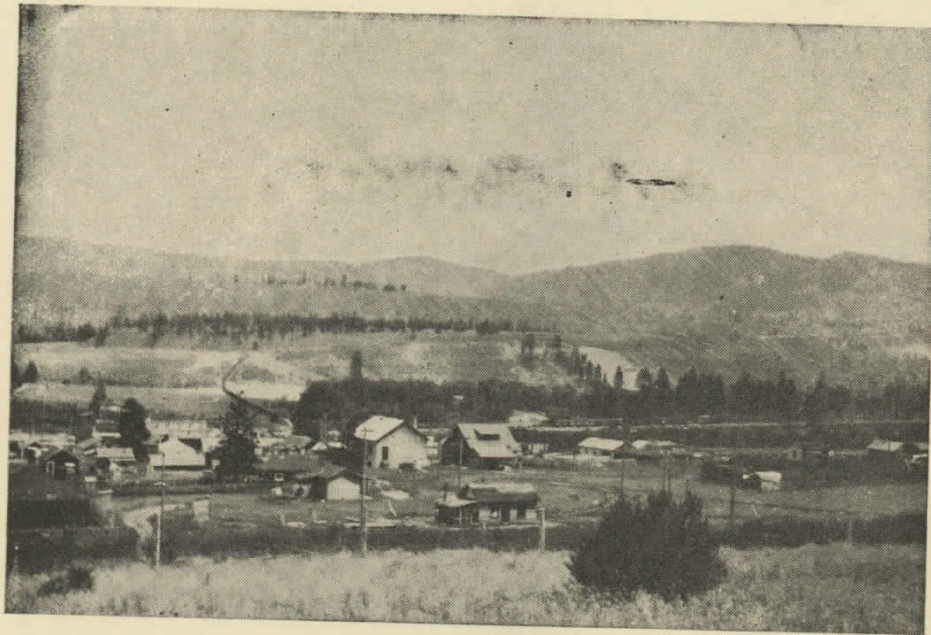


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## IRRIGATION PROJECT

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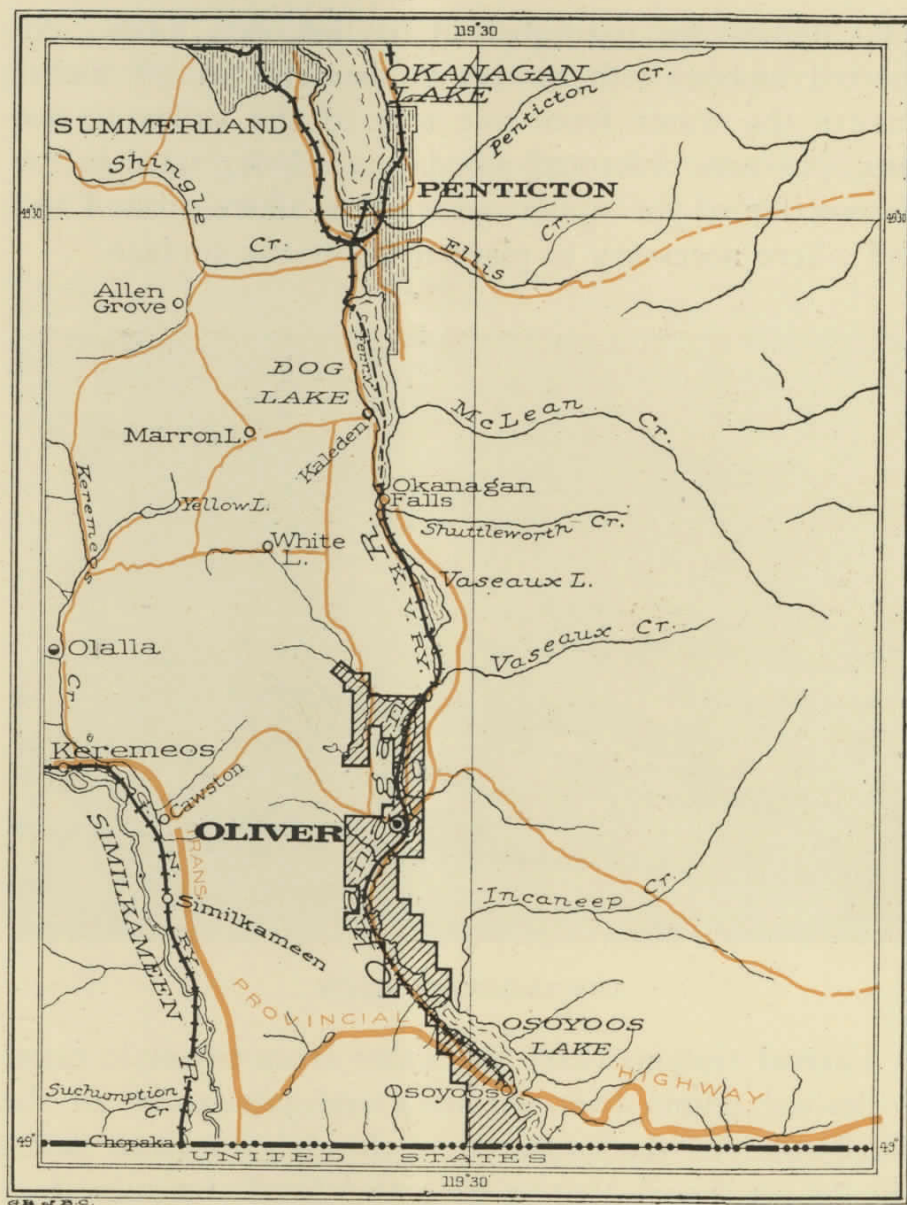
metal flumes are used instead of the open ditch. An inverted siphon with an inside diameter of 78 inches conveys the water from one side of the valley to the other, pressure creosoted wood staves being used in the construction of the siphon where it is above ground and steel where necessary to place it below the surface.



THE VALLEY AT OLIVER

Lateral systems carry the water from the main canal to desired points over the area and practically all the distribution to the orchards is through concrete pipes. The design is such that an irrigating-head of 1 cubic foot per second—that is, sufficient water to cover an acre to

# SOUTHERN OKANAGAN





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## IRRIGATION PROJECT

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the depth of 1 inch in an hour—may be supplied to every 10 acres, while the main system will provide sufficient water to cover each acre reached by it to the depth of 10 inches during any month of the irrigation season.

Certain lands above the main canal are irrigated by electrically driven pumps.

### Oliver.

Oliver, 25 miles south of Penticton, is the business centre of the Project area. Its growth is keeping pace with the development of the settlement and it has the modern conveniences of older towns, including schools and telephone, telegraph, and rail communication. Provision has been made for future growth in the reservation of areas for parks, municipal and school purposes. An adequate water system has been installed for both domestic and fire-protection purposes. The town is lighted by electric current supplied by the West Kootenay Power & Light Company. Electricity is available for all the domestic requirements of the residents.

### Transportation.

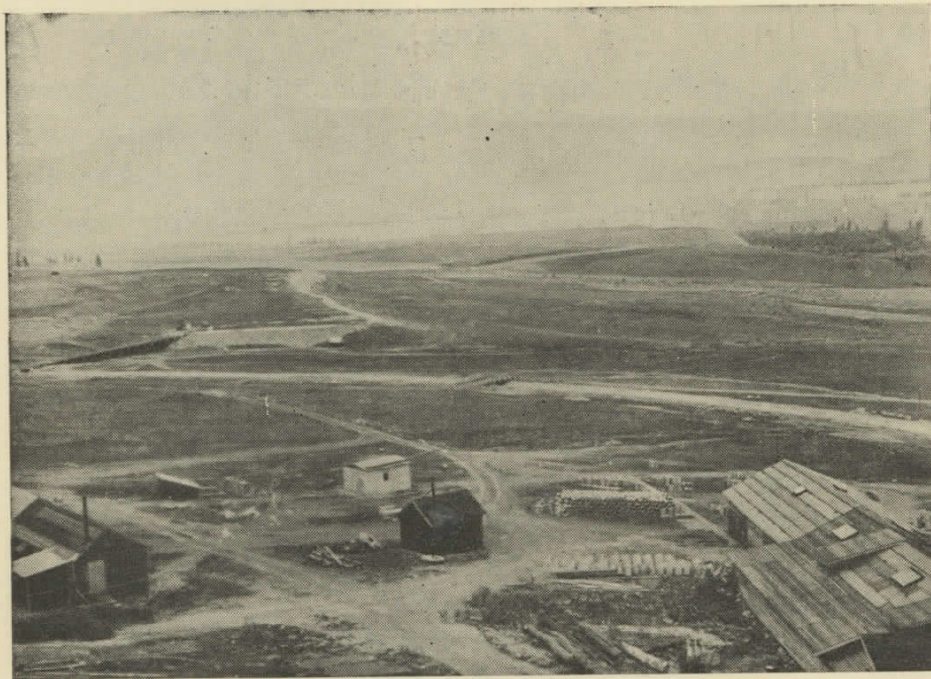
The accompanying map shows graphically the systems of rail and road communication with other sections of the Province. A branch line running south through the valley connects Oliver with the main line of the Kettle Valley Railway system at Penticton, a modern town of 3,500 people, situated at the southern end of Okanagan Lake. Direct connection with Vancouver and other Coast

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## SOUTHERN OKANAGAN

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cities is available by way of the Kettle Valley Railway or by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the main line of which may be reached by steamer service up Okanagan Lake to Okanagan Landing and thence by rail to Sicamous.



VALLEY, LOOKING SOUTH

The main motor highway from West Coast points in the United States and Canada passes up the Valley through Oliver to Penticton and Vernon and the projected transprovincial highway crosses the southern portion of the Project area. Other roads radiate out from



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## IRRIGATION PROJECT

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Oliver, giving ready access to all parts of the surrounding country.

### **Markets.**

Market facilities are good and are steadily improving. The disposal of crops is accomplished largely through co-operative effort and markets are being created in the eastern portions of the continent and also in Great Britain.

About sixty large packing-houses, equipped with modern machinery, are operated in the Okanagan District and are all easy of access by railways, steamer lines, or roads. Two evaporators and two cider-mills at Vernon are equipped to utilize the small apple culls. Canneries at Penticton, Summerland, Kelowna, and Vernon purchase large quantities of vegetables; the chief market for such products at present, however, is found in the Prairie Provinces, which are quickly reached by both the Kettle Valley and Canadian Pacific Railways from Penticton.

### **Nursery and Demonstration Plot.**

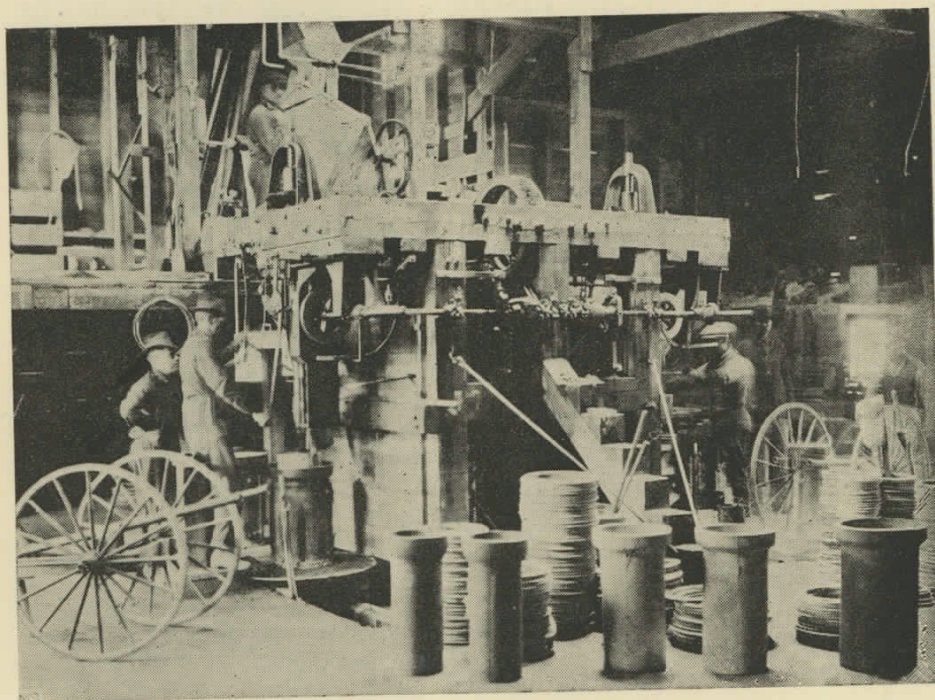
A nursery and demonstration plot located in the Project 4 miles south of Oliver, on the Kettle Valley Railway, is operated by the Government for the benefit of the Project settlers. Trees acclimatized to the district, and which will bear true to name, may be procured from the nursery on reasonable terms. About 94,000 trees had been furnished to settlers by the spring of 1923.

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The demonstration plot gives settlers and prospective purchasers an opportunity of seeing what can be actually grown on the land. This, particularly with reference to fruits, has been quite thoroughly investigated by the Government, and expert advice can be given regarding



LOCAL CONCRETE-PIPE FACTORY

the best varieties to grow. Tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers, etc., grow excellently; the climate being exceptionally adapted to the raising of tomatoes and cantaloupes. The experimental work of the Government plot has shown what can be done in utilizing

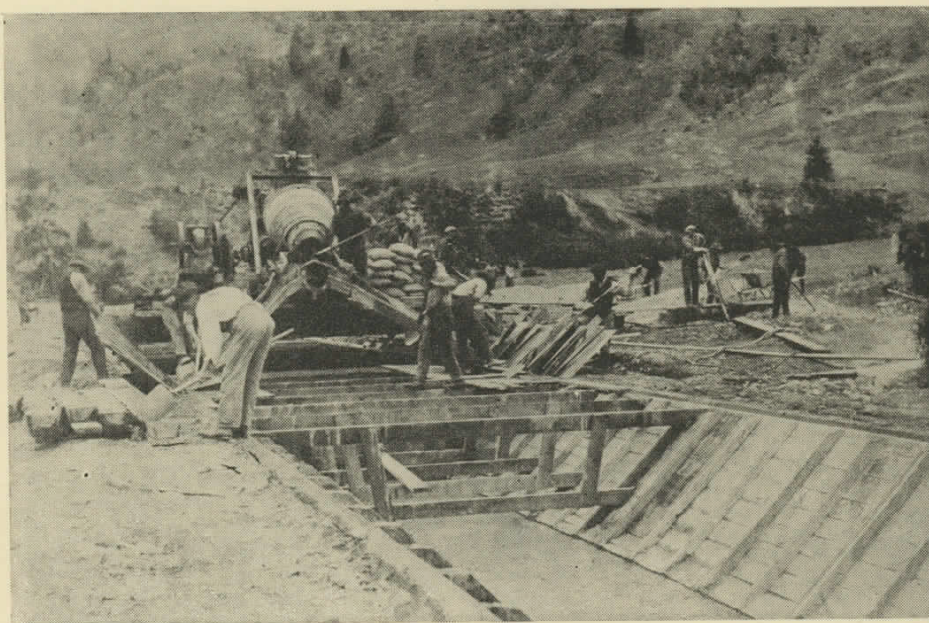


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## IRRIGATION PROJECT

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the space between the trees during the period from planting to bearing through the raising of marketable crops of vegetables and small fruits, and also in growing soil-building crops.



LINING THE MAIN CANAL

### Improved Orchard Lands.

A tract of 300 acres 1 mile south of Oliver is under special development by the Government. It has been divided into 10-acre blocks and each block has been planted out with a selection of fruit-trees which, when bearing, will ripen consecutively throughout the season.

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## SOUTHERN OKANAGAN

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This development area is fenced and the whole has been sown with alfalfa between the trees. These 10-acre blocks will be sold as improved orchards.

### **Dairying and Grazing.**

Besides fruit-growing, the Okanagan Valley is well adapted to dairying and good progress has been made in



MAIN CANAL, RUNNING FULL

this respect throughout the northern portion of the valley. Creameries at Vernon, Kelowna, and Armstrong now produce 500,000 lb. of butter a year. In this connection the Crown lands east and west of the Project are available for use under the Grazing Regulations for surplus



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## IRRIGATION PROJECT

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live stock which it is desired to keep away from the orchard lands during the open grazing seasons of each year.

As is usual in regions so climatically favoured as the Southern Okanagan Valley, there will be excellent opportunities for bee-keeping and seed-growing. Both indus-



THE TOWN OF OLIVER

tries are developing in British Columbia and Project settlers interested in these lines of farming activity would be well advised to avail themselves of the opportunity presented by a favoured locality. A Co-operative Seed-growers' Association, with headquarters at Penticton,

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## SOUTHERN OKANAGAN

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Deputy Minister of Lands at Victoria, B.C., or the Government Sales Agent at Oliver, B.C.

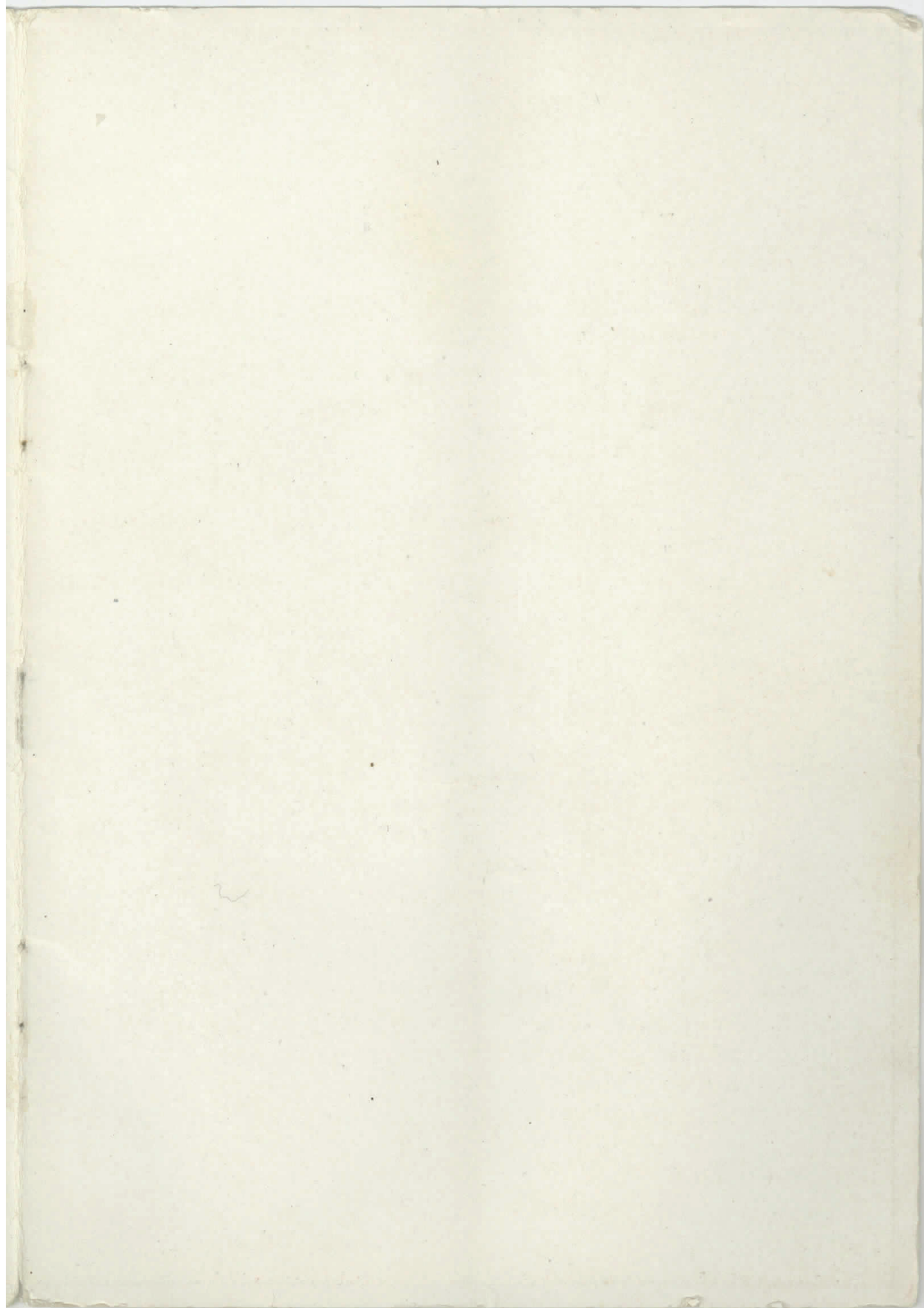
The Government Sales Agent will, on application, supply information regarding any specific lot, or will show any lot to any intending settler who visits the area to make a personal examination.

The terms—for other than returned soldiers who enlisted in British Columbia (for whom special privileges are allowed)—are that 20 per cent. of the purchase price is required to be paid down. No further payments of principal accrue due until five years from the date of purchase. The balance is then payable in four annual instalments. Interest at 6 per cent. is charged on deferred payments of principal, and is payable annually from date of purchase, together with water rates and taxes.

Returned soldiers who enlisted in British Columbia are required to pay 10 per cent. of the purchase price at the date of sale. When the first instalment of the balance falls due five years from the date of purchase they receive a rebate of \$500 provided the purchase price exceeds \$1,000, other conditions relating to sales being the same.

All purchasers are required to execute an agreement of sale and a water agreement, copies of which may be inspected at the Department of Lands, Victoria, or at the office of the Government Sales Agent at Oliver, B.C.





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